Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRASIL 05794 251901Z ACTION ABF-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 ISO-00 FSE-00 OPR-02 COME-00 AID-05

-----051832 261641Z/43

R 251835Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8394
INFO AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO
AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

UNCLAS BRASILIA 5794

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: EFIN, BR

SUBJECT: EXCHANGE RATE DEPRECIATION

REFS: A) BRASILIA 5002 B) RIO DE JANEIRO 3254

- 1. EFFECTIVE JULY 24 THE CRUZEIRO/U.S. DOLLAR RATES ARE 18.31 BUYING AND 18.41 SELLING. THIS WAS THE NINTH DEVALUATION IN 1978 AND CAME 32 DAYS AFTER THE PREVIOUS RATE CHANGE.
- 2. THE 2.1 PERCENT MODIFICATION WAS THE LARGEST SINGLE DEPRECIATION SINCE JUNE 1977 AND REFLECTS THE RELATIVELY LONG INTERVAL SINCE THE LAST MINI-DEVALUATION. CUMULATIVE DEPRECIATION OF THE CRUZEIRO IN CY 1978 TO DATE IS 14.8 PERCENT. ESTIMAATED CUMULATIVE CHANGE IN THE CRUZEIRO/DOLLAR RATE IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS IS 26.4 PERCENT.
- 3. THIS WAS THE FIRST RATE CHANGE SINCE THE FOURTH ANNUAL NATIONAL EXPORTERS' CONFERENCE IN RIO JUL 17-18 WHERE SPOKESMEN ADVOCATED POSSIBLE ALTERATIONS IN THE EXISTING EXCPANGE RATE SYSTEM (REF B). THIS MOST RECENT SMALL RATE ADJUSTMENT THUS CONFIRMS, AT LEAST UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 BRASIL 05794 251901Z

FOR THE PRESENT, THE GOB'S CONTINUED COMMITMENT TO THE ESTABLISHED SYSTEM OF MINI-DEVALUATIONS BASED ON COMPARATIVE RATES OF INFLATION IN BRAZIL AND ITS EXPORT MARKETS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 jan 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: DEPRECIATION Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 25 jul 1978 Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: n/a

Disposition Approved on Date: Disposition Case Number: n/a Disposition Comment: Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960 Disposition Event: Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BRASIL05794
Document Source: CORE

Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: n/a

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A

Expiration: Film Number: D780306-0881 Format: TEL

From: BRASILIA Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780720/aaaaarcs.tel

Line Count: 60 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: bc02e76c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Office: ACTION ABF

Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a Previous Classification: n/a Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: 78 BRASILIA 5002

Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags:

Review Date: 29 mar 2005 **Review Event:** Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:**

Review Release Date: N/A Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 1888283 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: EXCHANGE RATE DEPRECIATION

TAGS: EFIN, BR To: STATE Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/bc02e76c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

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